

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for coating an implantable medical device, comprising forming a polymer
5 layer containing a drug on the device, applying a polymer melt free from any solvents to the polymer layer to form a topcoat layer, wherein the during the application of the polymer melt the migration of the drug from the polymer layer is prevented or significantly minimized.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein free from any solvents is defined as less than 20% by volume of solvent.
- 10 3. The method of Claim 1, wherein free from any solvents is defined as less than 15% by volume of solvent.
4. The method of Claim 1, wherein free from any solvents is defined as less than 10% by volume of solvent.
5. The method of Claim 1, wherein free from any solvents is defined as less than 5% by
15 volume of solvent.
6. The method of Claim 1, wherein free from any solvents is defined as less than 1% by volume of solvent.
7. The method of Claim 1, wherein free from any solvents is defined as 0% by volume of solvent.
- 20 8. The method of Claim 1, wherein the applying a polymer melt comprises applying polymer to a disk member and spinning the disk member about an axis of the disk member such that the force that is applied to the polymer melt by the disk member discharges the polymer melt off of the disk member and onto the stent.

9. A method of coating a stent, comprising applying a coating material to a disk member and spinning the disk member about an axis of the disk member such that the force that is applied to the coating material by the disk member discharges the coating material off of the disk member and onto the stent.

10. The method of Claim 9, further comprising adjusting the temperature of the disk member to a temperature other than room temperature.

11. The method of Claim 9, wherein the surface of the disk member includes grooves for altering the path of the composition on the surface of the disk member.

12. The method of Claim 9, wherein the disk member is flat, conical, or bowl shaped.

13. The method of Claim 9, wherein the disk member includes a lip extending in an upwardly direction about the periphery thereof.

14. The method of Claim 9, wherein the coating material includes a polymer dissolved in a solvent and optionally a therapeutic substance added thereto.

15. The method of Claim 14, wherein the amount of solvent is less than 20% by volume.

16. The method of Claim 14, wherein the amount of solvent is less than 15% by volume.

17. The method of Claim 14, wherein the amount of solvent is less than 10% by volume.

18. The method of Claim 14, wherein the amount of solvent is less than 5% by volume.

19. The method of Claim 14, wherein the amount of solvent is less than 1% by volume.

20. The method of Claim 9, wherein the coating material consists of a polymer, a blend of polymers or a combination of polymers.

21. A method for coating an implantable medical device, comprising forming a polymer layer containing a drug on the device, applying a polymer in a liquid state and free from any solvents to the polymer layer to form a topcoat layer, wherein the during the application of the

topcoat layer the migration of the drug from the polymer layer is prevented or significantly minimized.

22. The method of Claim 21, wherein the temperature of the polymer in the liquid state is equal to or greater than the melting temperature of the polymer.